

Theodorick Bland to George Washington, September 11, 1777, The Writings of George Washington from the Original Manuscript Sources, 1745-1799. John C. Fitzpatrick, Editor.

To COLONEL THEODORICK BLAND

20 minutes aftero'clock,

Chad's Ford,¹ September 11, 1777.

Sir: I earnestly entreat a continuance of your vigilant attention to the movements of the enemy, and the earliest report not only of their movements, but of their numbers and the course they are pursuing. In a particular manner I wish to gain satisfactory information of a body confidently reported to have gone up to a ford seven or eight miles above this. It is said the fact is certain. You will send up an intelligent, sensible officer immediately with a party to find out the truth, what number it consists of, and the road they are now on. Be particular in these matters. I am, etc.²

¹n September 11 Washington's quarters were in John McIlvain's house, near Ridley, now Leiperville, Delaware County, Pa.

²he text is from Reed's Life and Correspondence of Joseph Reed, vol. 1